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(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA94/00192 (22) International Filing Date: 5 April 1994 (05.04.94) (30) Priority Data: 08/042,394      2 April 1993 (02.04.93)      US 08/144,006      1 November 1993 (01.11.93)      US (60) Parent Application or Grant (63) Related by Continuation US      08/144,006 (CIP) Filed on      1 November 1993 (01.11.93) (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: TOWE, Michael [CA/CA]; 2158 Montgomery Street, Montreal, Quebec H2K 2R8 (CA). (74) Agents: TRUDEAU, Raymond et al.; Smart & Biggar, 4 Place Ville Marie, Suite 606, Montreal, Quebec H3B 2E7 (CA).		(81) Designated States: AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, HU, JP, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LU, LV, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SK, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.          Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(54) Title: LIGHT-MODIFYING COMPOSITION  (57) Abstract  A composition comprising a colour pigment component and a light conditioning component characterized by being a transducing material having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed, thereby modifying the light in the coating resulting from the application of the composition. Such light conditioning component includes any material having the ability to partially absorb light. Preferred are neutral grey pigments in the form of grey powders having a minimal colour producing effect. The pigments can be in the form of ground grey powders such as powders taken from granite, feldspar, quartz or limestone or in the form of spherical metallic particles such as metallic zinc. In one embodiment the grey powder is in physical admixture with the colour pigments and serves to space the pigments apart from one another. In a variant the grey powder and the colour pigments are contained in respective superposed layers.			

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**TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

Light-modifying composition.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 The invention relates to surface coatings  
such as paints. In particular, the invention, in its  
simplest form, relates to a composition comprising a  
colour pigment component and a light conditioning  
component characterized by being a transducing material  
10 having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least  
part of the light absorbed, thereby modifying the light  
in the coating resulting from the application of the  
composition. Such pigment spacing component includes  
any material having the ability to partially absorb  
light. Preferred are neutral grey pigments in the form  
15 of grey powders having a minimal colour producing  
effect. The pigments can be in the form of ground grey  
powders such as powders taken from granite, feldspar,  
quartz or limestone or in the form of spherical  
metallic particles such as metallic zinc.

**20 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The coating industry is one of considerable  
importance in the industrialized world. It has  
ramifications extending in various technological areas.  
Hence, paints have been designed for the protection and  
25 decoration of masonry coatings, ferrous metals, non-  
ferrous metals, wood substrates and the like. Also,  
paints have been designed to provide special properties  
to the surface on which they are applied. Examples  
include the pigmentation of anti-foulants,  
30 electrocoatings, flame resistant and intumescent  
paints, heat-resistant paints and fluorescent paints.  
Pigments have also been used to prepare inks and to  
colour paper goods. Other examples of use of coatings  
include the pigmentation of rubbers, plastics,  
35 cosmetics, magnetic tapes, food, textiles, adhesives  
and ceramics.

With current technology, almost any type of coating composition prepared comprises binders, pigments and extenders which are combined to obtain the desired result. The most commonly used pigment is titanium dioxide. Titanium dioxide is insoluble in all liquids, with the exception of concentrated sulphuric acid and hydrofluoric acid. Titanium dioxide molecules produce a highly reflective white powder. The paint industry has by far the most widely diversified manufacturing requirements because each basic paint type such as flat, semi-gloss and enamel require different kinds and amounts of treatments using titanium dioxide. Still, titanium dioxide is used as a pigment by a large number of major industries such as paints, paper, plastics, rubbers, floor coverings, printing inks, ceramics, coated fabrics and roofing granules. All these industries have their specific requirements but the versatility of titanium dioxide has allowed adaptation of its use for various purposes.

Titanium dioxide produces the effect of whiteness on the human eye because it reflects all wavelengths of visible light to the same degree. Under red light, it appears red; under blue light, blue and under green light, green. Only under illumination containing all of the wavelengths of visible light does titanium dioxide appear white. This property coupled with the extremely high stability of the compound has led to its widespread use in the coating industry.

As a general rule, shades of colour are obtained by mixing colour pigments with black and white pigments. At the microscopic level, the white titanium dioxide pigments are very bright and their reflectivity is countered by the use of black pigments. This is generally how colours are made. Extenders in the form of ground powders having a particle size of usually 1 to 10 microns as well as binders which can be selected

from a wide array of chemicals can be used to hold the pigments together to form an applicable composition.

5                   However, the extreme stability of titanium dioxide, although an advantage from a technological point of view, is a serious drawback from an environmental point of view because any release of such a chemical in the environment can potentially create serious environmental hazards. The production of titanium dioxide causes the creation of massive amounts of highly toxic sulphur derivative by-products which are often released in the environment.

10                   Beyond the environmental considerations is the fact that the use of strongly reflective pigments such as titanium dioxide in the production of colours can lead to problems when attempting to produce very specific colours such as those found in nature. In fact, the brightness of titanium dioxide makes it almost impossible to produce something other than colours of high reflectivity.

20                   SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

                  As embodied and broadly described herein the invention provides a light-modifying composition comprising a colour pigment and a grey pigment characterized by having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed. The grey pigment acts to substantially evenly reduce the amount of light flux within the composition. The term "grey pigment", when used herein, is intended to designate any material of a grey appearance having essentially no chroma. A wide variety of grey pigments can be used in the context of the present invention. The important aspect is the fact that the grey pigment must absorb light and reflect only a certain percentage of it. Preferred grey pigments to be used are neutral grey but the use of grey having between 5 and 90% reflectance can be contemplated. Examples of grey pigments that can be used include ground powders such as granite,

feldspar, quartz and limestone powders. Also within the scope of the present invention is a coating base composition comprising a grey pigment dispersed in a solvent, as will be discussed in detail later.

5            Preferably, the light-modifying compositions under the present inventive concept are free or substantially free of white and black pigments, although the presence of white or near white fillers is not excluded. The absence of white and black pigments  
10 allows the colour pigment to be more predominant and to exist in a more natural light environment. Until the present, the field of coatings has been based upon the preparation of compositions including titanium dioxide, binders and extenders. The light-modifying composition  
15 of the present invention represents a departure from previous coating technology by allowing to eliminate or at least reduce the amount of traditional white and black pigments in the composition. By doing so, the required amount of colour pigment can be substantially  
20 reduced because the pigment particles are not overshadowed by either strongly reflecting white or strongly absorbing black pigment particles. This is possibly accomplished by providing a scale of light flux which results from the use of materials which  
25 absorb only a portion of the light in the coating film and provides a more even light environment for the colour pigments.

          It should be appreciated, however, that the inclusion of comparatively small amounts of white  
30 and/or black pigments in the light modifying composition broadly defined above is still within the spirit of the invention.

          In one of its preferred aspects, the present invention makes use of particulate grey pigments having  
35 a particle size of 40  $\mu\text{m}$  or less. However, any transducing material having the ability to produce gradual light flux reduction in a film or to convert



light into another form of non-visible energy, such as osmium, can be used.

5 In the past, in order to prepare coatings in a relatively economical manner, the use of white fillers was predominant. In fact, white fillers were the only extenders used to space pigment particles in a coating. Unfortunately, the use of white fillers was restricted to lighter tints available for any given pigment.

10 In order to achieve darker colours, it is often necessary to tone the composition with a black pigment. The drawback to this approach is that the resulting colour emitted by the composition loses clarity and intensity as a result of an uneven loss in  
15 light flux caused by the absorption of light by the black pigment and by the contrast created by the white pigment which maintains a high light contrast ratio in the film. The only solution up to now was to add additional costly pigment to make up for the loss in  
20 intensity.

With the present invention, the spacing of pigments in the darker tonal ranges is allowed without the loss of intensity experienced with the use of black pigments. The use of neutral grey pigments or almost  
25 neutral grey pigments of various reflectance, generally from 5 to 90% reflectance, but not restricted exclusively to this range, and visually identified as light grey, medium grey, dark grey etc., and mixtures thereof, reduces the amount of light flux in the film  
30 body in a more or less even fashion across the visible spectrum. This in effect creates a more even lighting effect in the film and by the reduction in contrast allows the pigment particles to become brighter in the lowering reflective grey surround.

35 When a neutral grey pigment or a sequence of neutral grey pigment is used, there is no sudden loss of flux since the grey still reflects light and the

resulting flux density is reduced much more gradually, allowing the colour pigment particles to give off variable light flux. This situation cannot occur when either black and white pigments or a black pigment and a white filler are used because the use of mixed black and white pigments results in an uneven distribution of light. With the use of a grey pigment, light is distributed more evenly in the coating and this allows one to achieve much finer nuances in colour tinting. The even decrease in light reflection experienced when using grey pigments, as opposed to complete light reflection and absorption experienced with black and white pigments, provides a greater range of useful light flux intensities which in turn provides a spectrum of energies available for the colour pigment particles. The resulting colour is viewed as more intense since the intensity would be of those wavelengths reflected by the colour pigments.

It should also be noted that the grey particles can reflect light without altering significantly the colour of the film of the composition but only the intensity or flux of light from the film. Still, the resulting colour composition has some grey in its body. Without wishing to be bound by any theory, because of the visibility of the grey pigment, as the concentration of grey pigment particles increases, it becomes more visually apparent that there is grey in the composition. A more efficient grey allows a reduction in volume of grey pigment in the composition to achieve the same effect, thereby losing the grey appearance of the resulting colour. Achieving a more efficient grey can be accomplished by varying particle size, particle shape and index of refraction or by converting light into another form of energy. In using the composition of the present invention, there is observed an interaction between the light reduction and the spacing effect of the grey pigments on the



colour pigment, thereby producing the two mechanisms needed to achieve colour ranges of marked freshness and intensity. This in fact allows for colours that exist in nature to be produced, which is not possible when  
5 using large amounts of black and white fillers or white pigments and white fillers.

Most preferably, the light-modifying composition of the present invention makes use of a binder to bind the grey and colour pigments together.  
10 However, in some applications such as the preparation of cosmetics, the use of a binder is not necessary.

In one specific embodiment the grey pigments and the colour pigments are in physical admixture, hence the grey pigments constitute an agency to space  
15 substantially evenly the colour pigments. In a variant, the grey pigments and the colour pigments are physically separated from one another. An example is a paint system including a undercoat that contains the grey pigments and an upper coat with the colour  
20 pigments. Most preferably, the upper coat is a so called "clear coat" which is non-opaque and allows at least part of the light to reach the undercoat.

As embodied and broadly described herein, the invention provides a light conditioning composition  
25 comprising a grey pigments suspended in solvent, said grey pigments having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed, said light modifying composition being capable of coating a surface to form an undercoat of a layer containing  
30 colour pigment.

As embodied and broadly described herein, the invention also provides a light modifying composition, said composition including:

- a first light conditioning composition  
35 comprising grey pigments suspended in solvent, said grey pigment having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed; and

- a second light conditioning composition containing colour pigments, said second light conditioning composition being capable of coating a surface to form a non-opaque coloured layer, said first  
5 light conditioning composition being capable of coating a surface to form an undercoat for said non-opaque coloured layer.

The present invention will be more readily illustrated by referring to the following description.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In its broadest terms, the present invention provides a new approach to the preparation of colour coatings. This new approach is based on the reduction and preferably the elimination of white and black  
15 pigments commonly used in the preparation of colour coatings.

White and black pigments represent complete opposites in terms of reflectivity and light absorption. They have been used to tone colour when  
20 attempting to reach the desired shade.

With the present invention, this approach has been discarded and a new concept is set forth by which white and black pigments are replaced by grey pigments having a reflective index which is lower than the  
25 reflective index of white pigments and higher than the reflective index of black pigments. This range of possible reflective indices for the grey pigments is referred to herein as "middle reflectivity". The middle reflectivity of the grey pigments used in the  
30 context of the present invention eliminates the excessive brightness caused by the standard titanium dioxide pigments as well as the reduced number of internal reflections caused by black pigments. In other words, it has been demonstrated that the colours  
35 achieved by combining white and black pigments and a colour pigment can be enhanced when replacing the white and black pigments with a grey pigment. For example,

when identical grey colours are prepared using either black and white pigments or grey pigments, the same addition of colour pigments gives a final coating having very different luminosities. The initial appearances of the grey bases are identical, but the addition of the same quantities of colour pigments provides much more intense colours in the base containing the grey pigment. This, as mentioned previously, is likely to be achieved because of a more even distribution of the internal reflections occurring in the coating.

The composition of the present invention comprises a limited number of components, with the grey pigment being the central component allowing the achievement of the desired range of colours. When used in the context of the present invention, the term "grey pigment" is also intended to designate any pigment having a middle reflectivity. Preferred materials which can be used as grey pigments will be described in further details but it is to be appreciated that the light modifying compositions of the present invention are not restricted to this type of pigment. Similarly, a wide variety of binders and colour pigments can be used in the light-modifying composition of the present invention and the present disclosure is not to be interpreted as being limited to those colour pigments and binders described herein.

#### Grey pigment

As mentioned previously, the grey pigment is the central component of the light-modifying composition falling within the scope of the present invention. The grey pigment acts as a spacer for colour pigments providing a more even light distribution throughout the coating. In this regard, the grey pigment material controls both value and chroma of the resulting coating. It acts by reducing the amount of light reflected in the coating and

spacing the colour pigments. These are the characteristic benefits encountered when using grey pigments.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the grey pigment is either in the form of ground carbonate, silicate, sulfate and phosphate powders taken from materials such as granite, feldspar, quartz, limestone ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), dolomite limestone, kaolin, talc, mica and Fuller's earth or in the form of spherical metallic  
10 zinc powder particles. A number of parameters can be adjusted to provide the desired reflectance in this grey pigment. Firstly, the particle size of the ground powder can have a substantial influence on the tone of the coating. Particle sizes ranging from 1 to 40 micrometers  
15 are usually preferred, with 1 to 20 micrometers being most preferred. Also, the reflectance of the specific grey pigments used has an influence on the final colour. For example, ground calcium carbonate powder has a reflectance of approximately 30% but it can be combined  
20 with other grey powders of lower or higher reflectance to obtain the desired colour. The reflectance can range between 5 and 90% but the most useful materials appear to be the neutral grey having a medium range reflectance ranging between 30 and 80%.

25 The amount of grey pigment that is used in the composition of the present invention is usually substantial. This is the case because the middle reflectance of the grey pigments allows for use of very small amounts of colour pigments. In most applications,  
30 a binder will also form part of the composition but the percentage of binder used is relatively low. Consequently, the percentage of grey pigment used usually varies between 10 and 70% by weight, depending on which application is contemplated. Preferred percentages range  
35 between 20 and 50% by weight. However, much lower percentages can be used if the grey pigment is in the form of zinc powder.

Colour pigments

Various colour pigments can be used in the light-modifying composition of the present invention. The colour pigment can be either inorganic or organic, depending on the contemplated application.

In the case of inorganic pigments, oxides such as natural or synthetic coloured iron oxides or chromium oxides can be used. The use of chromate such as lead chromate and chrome green pigments is also possible. Cadmium and ferriferrocyanide pigments as well as other inorganic colour pigments such as ultramarine pigments, mercuric sulfide and synthetic inorganic complexes can also be used to form the composition of the present invention.

In the case of organic colour pigments, the possibilities are also very wide. One can refer to the use of nitroso, nitromonoazo, diazo and disazo pigments. Basic dye pigments, alkali blues, peacock blue lake, phloxine, quinacridones, lake of acid yellow, carbazole dioxazine violet, alizarine lake, vat pigments, phthalocyanine and tetrachloroisindolinone can also be used in the context of the present invention.

Also, metallic pigments such as aluminum flakes, copper and copper alloy flake powders, zinc pigments and stainless steel flake pigments can be used with the grey powder pigment described above. One can also contemplate the use of metal protective pigments, nacreous pigments, luminescent pigments, functional pigments as well as food, drug and cosmetic colours.

The percentage of colour pigment used is not a critical aspect of the invention. It can be varied through a wide range of concentrations and is a function of the colour which one wishes to obtain. Preferably, the percentage of colour pigment varies between 0.25 and 25% by weight. In situations where very intense colours are desired, the percentage of



colour pigment can exceed this range. Similarly, in situations where very pale colours are desired, the percentage of colour pigment can be less than this range. These exceptions fall within the scope of the present invention. Also, it would appear preferable that the pigment used in the composition exhibits a reflectance which is higher than the reflectance of the grey pigment particles.

#### Binders

In certain applications of the composition of the present invention, it might be necessary to use a binder component to form an applicable composition. A wide variety of binders such as oils, varnishes, latex emulsions, styrene, styrene butadiene, polyvinyl acetate, acrylic, acrylic-styrene, acrylic polyvinyl acetate, polyurethanes and the like can be used. These are known to the person skilled in the art. It is to be appreciated however that binders other than those referred to above can be efficiently employed.

The percentage of binder used in the context of the present invention can vary from 0% to 50% by weight. In some applications relating to the cosmetic industry, for example, the use of a binder can sometimes be discarded.

#### Additives

A wide variety of additives can be incorporated into the composition of the present invention to impart different properties to the final product depending on its final use. Such additives include dispersants, surfactants, defoamers, thickness and the like. The choice and amount of additive is dictated by the end use and is within the knowledge of the person skilled in the art.

#### Preparation of the light-modifying composition of the present invention

Once a pigment binder of appropriate particle size and shape has been obtained, the composition of



the present invention is typically prepared by first producing a slurry of the grey pigment, essentially to disperse the grey pigment in the desired solvent. Typically, the grey pigment particles are mixed with an  
5 appropriate solvent, for example water, oils or a long chain alcohol such as propylene glycol and ethylene glycol, together with suitable additives required to produce and maintain a uniform slurry such as wetting agents, dispersants, surfactants, defoamers, thickeners  
10 and the like, the use of which is within the knowledge of the skilled artisan. The mixing time can vary depending on the additives used but should be sufficient to adequately disperse the grey pigment particles within the slurry. A typical mixing time  
15 using a high speed disperser varies from 10 to 30 minutes.

To the resulting grey pigment slurry is then added a binder and the additives required to achieve the desired characteristics for the final coating. At  
20 this stage of the process, additives such as thickness, preservatives, defoamers, buffers to maintain the desired pH, coalescence and the like can be used. Again, the choice of binders and additives is within the knowledge of the person skilled in the art.

25 After the binder has been incorporated into the slurry, the colour pigment is added in sufficient amounts to yield the desired colour. The amount and nature of the pigment can be varied depending on the end result desired. Alternatively, the grey and colour  
30 pigments can be dispersed together in the initial slurry mixture once the colour pigment requirements to achieve the desired result are known. In some instances, it may even be advisable to fix the colour pigments to the grey pigment particles through  
35 preliminary mixing with the appropriate chemicals which are within the knowledge of the skilled artisan. This

can be accomplished by using a fixing process similar to the process used for fixing dyes.

It is to be noted that the method described above is to be viewed as a general guide for the preparation of coloured coatings using grey pigments. Modifications are possible depending on the end use and fall within the scope of the invention.

Application of the composition of the present invention for the preparation of various coatings

The composition of the present invention can be used in numerous applications including the preparation of masonry coatings, paints for ferrous and non-ferrous metals, trade sales paints for wood substrates, anti-foulants, electrocoatings, flame-resistant and intumescent paints, heat-resistant paints, fluorescent paints, joint fillers, inks, inks for paper goods, inks for elastomers, inks for plastics, cosmetics, markers, magnetic tapes, food stuffs, textiles, adhesives, ceramics, artists colours, photoconductive coatings and concrete and mortar. Descriptions of procedures used to prepare coatings for these different applications are described in the Pigment Handbook (Temple C. Patton, Wiley-Interscience, 1973, Volumes 1 to 3) which is hereby incorporated by reference. In most instances, the use of the present invention involves the replacement of white and black pigments by a grey pigment. This can involve changes in parameters but these modifications are well within the purview of the person skilled in the art.

**Example 1**

Preparation of a green artist paint using a grey pigment

To 740 ml of water were added 25 ml of Tamol 731 dispersant (Rohm and Haas), 5 ml of CF10 50% surfactant (Triton-Rohm and Haas), 165 ml vol. of QP40-10% conc. ethyl cellulose thickener (Union carbide), 30

ml vol. of NXZ defoamer (Diamond Shamrock) and 2.27 kg of 325 mesh grey granite powder.

5 The resulting mixture was dispersed in a high speed disperser for 15 minutes to yield a grey pigment slurry which was then added to the letdown phase. To the slurry were added 2.48 liters vol. of Rhoplex AC64 acrylic binder (Rohm and Haas), 88 ml vol. of water, 30 ml vol. of Texanol coalescent (Eastman Kodak), 13 ml of Nopco NXZ defoamer (Diamond Shamrock), 7 ml of Proxel  
10 GXL preservative (ICI), 23 ml of amino-methylpropanol buffer, 80 ml of QP40-10% cellulose and 103 ml vol. of ASE60-12.5% conc. of Acrysol thickener (Rohm and Haas). The resulting solution was mixed for approximately 20 minutes to yield approximately 4.43 liters vol. of grey  
15 paint having a 30% binder content and a total solids content of about 50%. To the grey paint was added sufficient green cobalt pigment either in paste form or in a paint format until the desired green colour was obtained.

20 Alternatively, to a cobalt green artist paint was added sufficient amounts of grey slurry (before the letdown) to achieve the desired tone of green. In some instances, it was necessary to add more acrylic emulsion (in the form of a gloss medium) to impart the  
25 desired flexibility and gloss to the resulting composition.

In a variant, the grey pigments and the colour pigments are applied as separate coats on the surface to be covered, hence they are not in physical  
30 admixture. This embodiment is particularly suitable for modern automotive painting that uses the so-called "clear coat" which is a layer of non-opaque material containing colour pigments. The clear coat is applied over a grey undercoat. The improvement provided by  
35 this invention resides in the use of an undercoat made of grey pigments which allows to reduce the amount of colour pigments in the clear coat. The undercoat is

prepared by dispersing the grey pigments in a solvent (in a similar way as the base coat described earlier). As for the clear coat it is made in a known fashion with the exception that the amount of colour pigments may be reduced without creating any adverse effects in the appearance of the colour.

CLAIMS

1. A light-modifying composition comprising a colour pigment and a grey pigment characterized by having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed, said grey pigment acting substantially gradually to reduce the amount of light flux in said composition.

2. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, further comprising a binder substance for binding said colour pigment to said grey pigment.

3. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, wherein said grey pigment is characterized by having a reflectivity ranging between 5 and 90%.

4. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, wherein said grey pigment is characterized by having a reflectivity ranging between 10 and 70%.

5. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, characterized in that said grey pigment comprises particles having a size ranging from 1 to 40 micrometers.

6. A light-modifying composition according to claim 5, characterized in that said grey pigment comprises particles having a size ranging from 1 to 20 micrometers.

7. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, wherein said grey pigment is selected from the group consisting of granite, feldspar, quartz and limestone particles.

8. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is free of black pigments and titanium dioxide pigments.

9. A light-modifying composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said colour pigments and said grey pigment are in physical admixture, wherein said grey pigment substantially evenly spaces said colour pigments.

10. A light-modifying composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of colour pigment in said composition ranges between 0.25 and 25% by weight.

5 11. A coating base composition comprising a grey pigment dispersed in a solvent said grey pigment being characterized by having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed.

10 12. A light conditioning composition comprising a grey pigments suspended in solvent, said grey pigments having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed, said light conditioning composition being capable of coating a surface to form an undercoat for a layer containing colour pigment.

15 13. A light-modifying composition according to claim 12, wherein said grey pigment is characterized by having a reflectivity ranging between 5 and 90%.

20 14. A light-modifying composition according to claim 12, wherein said grey pigment is characterized by having a reflectivity ranging between 10 and 70%.

15. A light-modifying composition according to claim 12, characterized in that said grey pigment comprises particles having a size ranging from 1 to 40 micrometers.

25 16. A light-modifying composition according to claim 15, characterized in that said grey pigment comprises particles having a size ranging from 1 to 20 micrometers.

30 17. A light-modifying composition according to claim 12, wherein said grey pigment is selected from the group consisting of granite, feldspar, quartz and limestone particles.

35 18. A light-modifying composition according to claim 12, wherein said composition is substantially free of black pigments and titanium dioxide pigments.

19. A light modifying composition, said composition including:



- a first light conditioning composition comprising grey pigments suspended in solvent, said grey pigment having the ability to absorb light and reflect at least part of the light absorbed; and

- 5                   - a second light conditioning composition containing colour pigments, said second light conditioning composition being capable of coating a surface to form a non-opaque coloured layer, said first
- 10                   light conditioning composition being capable of coating a surface to form an undercoat for said non-opaque coloured layer.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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IPC 5 C09D17/00 C09B67/00 C09D5/06 C09D7/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 5 C09D C09B C09C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US,A,2 877 130 (MAURICE CARON) 10 March 1959 see column 1, line 67 - column 2, line 18 see column 3, line 27 - line 36; examples 1,5 ---	1,2,8,9
A	DE,A,23 38 759 (BAYER) 13 February 1975 see page 1 see page 2, paragraph 3 ---	1,7-9
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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 94/00192

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